

SIGN of the TIMES An E-NEWS

November 2013 –February 2014



Iowa Department of Human Rights



Office of Deaf Services

Mark your calendar. December 21st is officially the first day of winter! The holiday season is officially upon us and it's time to eat, drink and be merry while sharing the love of this beautiful season. Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and peaceful new year!



MyFreeTaxes

If you earn \$58,000 or less, you can get help filing your federal and state taxes online or in person for FREE! My Free Taxes is sponsored by the Wal-Mart Foundation and is working together with Goodwill Industries, National Disability Institute and the United Way to help low to moderate income individuals and their families increase financial stability with the help of a volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) and an online self-tax preparation through www.MyFreeTaxes.com

What is the National Disability Institute?

The National Disability Institute (NDI) is the first national nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to building a better economic future for people with disabilities. They provide training, technical assistance, support and resources in six key areas; financial education, tax preparation, benefits planning, employment, asset building and public policy. For the 2014 tax season, NDI will help recruit and fund an IRS-certified tax coach to provide training, technical assistance and online resources for all individuals that come into their office.

What Do I need to Bring?

- Social Security number for each family member and working adult
- W-2s, 1099s and other forms income
- Childcare provider name, address and tax ID
- Bank routing and account numbers for checking and savings accounts

Call 2-1-1 to find a free tax site near you!

If you are in need of an ADA accommodation, please contact
Jamie Robinson (617)467-4195 or jrobinson@ndi-inc.org



Affordable Care Act

Starting March 31, 2014, all Americans will be required to have health insurance. People who don't comply will face a penalty of \$95 or 1 percent of their income, whichever is higher. Many individuals who make less than \$46,000 may qualify for public assistance if they buy health insurance on the new government exchange, www.healthcare.gov.

If you make less than \$11,500, you will qualify for the new Iowa Health and Wellness Plan which will provide insurance similar to Medicaid. Individuals who make between \$11,500 and \$15,900 will be eligible for Iowa's new Marketplace Choice Plan which means the federal government will help pay for some of your premiums.

If you or your spouse's employer offers you health insurance, you will not qualify for government assistance for premiums. You can still look on the website to see if you can find a better deal but many people will find that your employer's health insurance is the best available option.

If you already have:

- Medicare
- Medicaid
- VA Medical Benefit
- Hawk – I
- Health insurance from your employer

Then you do not need to sign up and will not be penalized!

For more information about the programs you can go to www.healthcare.gov or call 1 855-889-7985

Iowa Law Helps Get Your Broken Equipment Fixed

If you buy an assistive device and it has a defect or quickly breaks, Iowa law may be able to help. Iowa law protects people who buy certain assistive devices. The law requires the vendors that sell the assistive devices make sure the devices work. Sellers must provide or give warranties for at least one year.

If a seller doesn't follow the rules, then the law provides some ways to fix the problem. If your assistive device has a problem, here is what you need to do:

1. Report the problem to the device's manufacturer or authorized dealer so the seller can repair.
2. The seller must then make a "reasonable attempt" to repair the device. The seller has either two chances or a total 30 service days to fix the problem.
3. If the seller does not fix the problem, then their time is up. At your request, the seller must provide you with a refund or a similar new device.
4. If the repair will take more than 30 days, the seller must provide you with a loaner device. If necessary, you can take the seller to court to enforce these rights.



HOW TO RIDE

▶▶▶▶▶ TRAINING AVAILABLE

DART staff provides small group training to help individuals learn to ride the bus in Greater Des Moines. Training will demonstrate how to plan a trip, read maps and schedules, recognize bus stops, pay fares, practice rider safety and more. How to Ride Training sessions are free and open to the public.



How to Ride Training sessions are held at DART Central Station on:

Monday, Nov. 25, 2013
from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013
from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014
from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014
from 9 a.m. to noon

Tuesday, March 18, 2014
from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

DART Central Station
Multimodal Room (second floor)
620 Cherry Street, Des Moines

For questions or to reserve your seat, call
DART Customer Service at 515-283-8100
or email dart@ridedart.com.



515-283-8100 ▶ ridedart.com

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This Holiday Season See what they say[®] with Captioned Telephone

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Captioned Telephone may be the perfect gift for you or someone you know!

With Captioned Telephone (CapTel[®]) you don't have to worry about missing what's said to you over the phone.

Captioned Telephone allows you to listen while reading every word the other party says throughout your conversation on the bright display screen of a CapTel[®] phone.



Now you can stay connected - through the holidays and all year long.

Contact Relay Iowa to learn more about Captioned Telephone — the no-cost service that lets you see what people are saying!



RelayIowa.com

Relay Iowa is a program of
the Iowa Utilities Board.

The captioning service is provided at no cost. Equipment charges and standard long distance charges may apply.

Call 888.269.7477 V/TTY • iarelay@hamiltonrelay.com

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for Smartphones

Visit HamiltonCapTel.com to learn more.

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Note regarding Internet-based (IP) Captioned Telephone Service: Federal law prohibits anyone but registered users with hearing loss from using IP Captioned Telephones with the captions turned on. IP Captioned Telephone Service is funded and regulated by the Federal Communications Commission. To learn more, visit www.fcc.gov. Hamilton CapTel may be used to make 911 calls, but may not function the same as traditional 911 services. For more information about the benefits and limitations of Hamilton CapTel and Emergency 911 calling, visit www.HamiltonCapTel.com/911. Voice and data plans may be required when using Hamilton CapTel on a smartphone. • Android is a trademark of Google Inc. iPhone, iPad and Mac are trademarks of Apple Inc. CapTel is a registered trademark of Ultratec, Inc.

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Iowa is the home of between 307,400 to 430,300 deaf and hard of hearing people; and

WHEREAS, These people are neighbors who share the same values, responsibilities and pay taxes as all Iowans do; and

WHEREAS, The deaf and hard of hearing are students, parents, employees and community volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Along with all Iowans, these persons hold true to the Iowa state motto, *Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Will Maintain*; and

WHEREAS, We respect diversity and peoples with disabilities and regard their pursuit of education, employment and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, It is equally important that we ensure they obtain opportunities as Iowans, respect them as equal citizens of Iowa and support their needs for accommodations and access; and

WHEREAS, Any negligence on our part would increase hardship, discrimination and contempt for profound deaf persons, hard of hearing persons and deaf/blind Iowans; and

WHEREAS, The Iowa Association of the Deaf (IAD), the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Iowans jointly observe Equality of Deaf Persons Week:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the state of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the week of September 22-28, 2013 as Deaf Awareness Week

DEAF AWARENESS WEEK

(The commissioners and DSCI staff worked on this proclamation and we wanted to share this proclamation with you)

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Michael Keith Berger was born September 28, 1964 in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. The son of Keith Berger and Dorothy A. (Leiby) Berger, Michael was baptized in the Trinity Reform Church in Bloomsburg and confirmed while at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. After graduating from high school there, he attended and received his degree from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

After college Michael taught for three years at National Institute for the Deaf before going into the printing business. He moved to Chicago and worked for Diemand Printing until the company's business was virtually wiped out on 9/11. He went to work for Chipotle and managed a store for the company until taking a position as a pre-print specialist with Inkwell in Chicago.

Michael was an integral part of and advocate for the Deaf Community in Chicago. He was a past president of the Illinois Association of the Deaf and a current board member of the National Association of the Deaf, representing 13 states and travelling all over the country. He belonged to the Chicago Club for the Deaf and MCLD. Michael was also still active in Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, an organization he joined while in college.

After suffering a stroke, Michael was recovering at Schwab Rehabilitation in Chicago. Another stroke caused him to be taken to Mt. Sinai Hospital in Chicago, where he passed away on Friday, November 8, 2013 at the age of 49 years, 1 month, and 12 days. His father Keith and grandparents Roy and Meriam Leiby and George and Mabel Berger preceded him in death.

Michael is survived by his mother and step-father Dot and Martin Kelsay of rural Stella; sister Stephanie and husband Mike Gerdes of Auburn; step-brothers Joel and wife Trisha Kelsay of Auburn, Andrew and wife Tiffany Kelsay of Fort Riley, KS; aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

Memorials suggested to National Association of the Deaf or Illinois Association of the Deaf. The Illinois Association of the Deaf will have a candle light vigil in remembrance of Michael Berger on Saturday, December 7th at 7:00pm central time. They will connect live via Facetime, Skype, iPhone, etc. for people who are unable to attend in person. You can set up at your home, center, church or at a social place.

Please contact Richard McCowin at richard.mccowin@nad.org for more information about the event in your home state.





Hamilton Relay Services:

Kathy Miller selected for Hamilton Relay 2013 Deaf Community Leader Award for the State of Iowa

Kathy Miller is dedicated to improving the lives of Iowans who are deaf and has earned the respect of her peers through her leadership and commitment to both herself and her community. Kathy has been instrumental in keeping Iowans informed about what is happening across the state and across the nation as it relates to the Deaf Community.

Involved with numerous organizations, clubs and activities throughout Iowa, Kathy is currently serving her second term as President of the Iowa Association of the Deaf and was chairperson for the Association's 2013 Conference. She was selected to serve as Iowa's Delegate to the National Association of the Deaf Conferences and National Association of the Deaf Leadership Training Conference. Additionally, Kathy is a member and officer of the Council Bluffs Silent Club.

As a passionate advocate for early detection of hearing loss, Kathy is involved with the Iowa Early Detection and Intervention Program. She volunteers with students of the Iowa School for the Deaf to assist with transportation to the Junior National Association for the Deaf meetings and to help connect students to the Association's Advisor. Furthermore, Kathy has served on the Iowa Board of Regent's Iowa School for the Deaf Feasibility Study and Planning Committee.

We commend Kathy Miller for the difference she is making in the lives of Iowans who are deaf and we are pleased to honor the work that she is doing with the Hamilton Relay 2013 Deaf Community Leader Award.

This leadership recognition has been brought to you by Hamilton Relay.



Also, we, Deaf Services Staff, want to congratulate Kathy Miller for being selected 2013 Deaf Community Lead Award from Hamilton Relay Service. Good Job, Kathy.

Congratulations!



CRAD's 32nd Annual Christmas Potluck

Saturday, December 14, 2013,
Doors open at 5:30 pm. Dinner served at 6:00 pm.

**At Hiawatha Community Center
101 Emmons Street
Hiawatha, IA 52233**

Admission:

\$5/person with food

\$10/person without food

Free: children 14 and under

(Bring hot or cold dish OR dessert to share)

CRAD will be provide meats

- We will have Deaf Santa (bring gift for your each child and drop off at admission table).
- Kids activities will be provided, Games, Raffle tickets (Full Cash win) and Drawing Prizes

Hosted by Cedar Rapids Association of the Deaf

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 8, 2013: Cedarloo Association of the Deaf Annual Christmas Potluck, North Star Community Services Building 3420 University Ave., Waterloo, Iowa 50701

December 14, 2013: CRAD's 32nd Annual Christmas Potluck, Hiawatha Community Center, 101 Emmons St., Hiawatha, IA 50322

December 25, 2013: Office of Deaf Services will be closed on Christmas Day.

January 1, 2014: Office of Deaf Services will be closed on New Year Day.

February 7, 2014: Deaf Services Commission meeting (location to be determined)

February 17, 2014: Iowa Board of Sign Language/Transliterator Professional Meeting, Lucas State Office Building 5th floor.

April 14, 2014: Deaf Capitol Day, Capitol Building, East 9th Street and Grand, Des Moines. (To be announced soon)

June 15-22, 2014: National Campevention of the Deaf, Hosted by Iowa Deaf Campers, Amana Colonies RV Park, Amana Iowa.

June 16, 2014: "In the Can", The Old Creamery Theatre Company, 39-38th Ave, Amana, Iowa 52203 (Tickets will be sold at the door, if available)

The deadline for submission for the March issue is February 28, 2014. Send e-mail submissions to dhrr.dsci@iowa.gov

If you would like to post your events in our newsletter, please send an e-mail to dhrr.dsci@iowa.gov.

Visit the DSCI website: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dhrr/ds/index.html>

Questions or Comments?

Email us at dhrr.dsci@iowa.gov or call 515-281-3164 V/TTY or Toll-Free: 1-888-221-3724 V/

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!